

Cap. Haitien

(St. Domingo) Feb 23. 1841

Dear Friend Collins,



You will perhaps be surprised to hear of us from hence, but here we are, taking refuge from the winter which threatened to be too much for Henry's health. Meanwhile that mean-souled Colver was, it seems <sup>been</sup> endeavoring to do all his malice could invent for your injury on the other side of the water as well as our own. I have written to Thomas Sturge & Elizabeth Pease, & Harriet Martineau, & to Thomas Sturge to whom we were both personally unknown, Henry wrote with me in writing. We said every thing, that an honest indignation, roused by attempted injury to the cause & the groundless and malicious aspersions against one whom we have so long known & been so acutely indebted to for the cause's sake as yourself, would prompt. We wrote with a tempered but severe indignation, as those would of course who have been used to seeing these attacks from year to year. The same old scene is constantly played. Intolerance, <sup>to religious opinions</sup> pretended, to mask entire toleration for slavery. ~~The~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~calumnies~~ <sup>calumnies</sup> set to work to change the issue. How thankful we have always had reason to be, that the Malice of the Evening should be vented upon characters so pure as those of Garrison & yourself. I think this last outrage will



at last, fall upon the heads that have planned it.  
It is so gross that I should think even John Seoble would  
blush as he pretended to believe it. How much we  
wished you to have been with us at the Socie and  
which the Fair terminated! Great good was done. I  
have reason to think. Bishop has proved unworthy.  
I fear he was wrought upon by the enemy to act as  
he did, though he might not have been aware how  
much they put into his head the ideas he cherished there. He  
fancied that his services were not appreciated, & wanted  
to be general agent I think. Every body is amazed  
at the stupidity of his conduct. Henry had the satisfaction  
of telling him to quit the office & not use the Society's  
property & house, as the means to do it all the harm in  
his power. But his little nibblings in the bottom of  
the vessel will not I fancy be very dangerous. Colver's  
attack upon you will be the theme of the annual  
meeting mainly, in all probability. What unmeaning ef-  
forts the enemy always make to blast the character  
of every advocate whose efforts tell for the cause. It  
is the proof of your apostleship in this cause. Did they  
not do to Thompson? Did they not - no longer ago than  
last summer, declare that Garrison, (who certainly is  
well known as a Philanthropist & Christian, & acknowledged  
to be such by all but the most wicked of the wicked)  
was a reckless adventurer? I pray God to give  
you strength to feel that all these things are but the



natural consequences of a right course of conduct with  
regard to Slavery & its hypocritical defenders & their  
concomitantly dupes. It is provoking truly, to have  
such a man as Colver - the voice of one who never  
was an abolitionist till it was to his advantage to  
be so, & who even during the short time of his resi-  
dence in Boston & before he openly deserted us, failed  
us repeatedly like a broken reed - it is I must  
confess provoking to find such a man credited for  
an instant. To hear him, who promised us nothing  
to advocate the petition for abrogating the colour-law  
finally decline to do it because the Minister in  
whose pulpit he was to have done it, ~~expressed~~ ~~that~~  
~~that~~ agitation of the subject - to hear him, who  
who could not pray for the slave in the Federal St  
Baptist church, talk about injuring the cause! -  
To hear him who defended Dr Wayland, hoping  
thereby to bring discredit upon N P Rogers who  
had faithfully rebuked the pro slavery course of  
that holy hypocrite talk about it being embarrassed  
by Garrison! To hear him, who has been before  
a civil or ecclesiastical tribunal (I forget which) on  
charge of breaking the Seventh Commandment talk  
about No. Marriage views! To hear a man who  
planned the destruction of the Boston Female Anti Slavery  
Society, & stood by his parishioners & their pro slavery new-  
recruits, in smearing falsity to hear him talk about



"the good." I forgive such persons seventy times  
seven. But I should had I ever known much of  
him personally, have put on the great accom-  
modation. A heathen man & a publican  
must the man be to us, when we have seen  
him commit as many outrages against the  
cause as Luther had done a year & a half ago.

Where he intends to stop in his career of falsehood  
it is difficult to imagine. Whether you have  
seen his & Tourays Conventions in the Mass Ab.  
I know not. Fortunately they are books too well  
understood on this side the water to be of any  
consequence. I really cannot bear to allude  
to you, in whose bereavement I so deeply sym-  
pathize, the really shocking & scandalous ac-  
tivity make of the fact that your beloved wife  
was not an abolitionist, & regretted the clerical hon-  
ours that you laid down for the sake of the cause.  
They intimate that for her sake they shared you!  
but she being gone they shall manufacture their  
assertions of your unkind treatment of her at leisure.  
To us, who have seen you so much together  
& with whom she was domiciled on first arrival  
from Andover, this would be truly laughable, were  
it not for the fact of your having been so  
recently deprived of her. I have reined in my indigna-  
tion, & prevailed on myself to tell you of this malignity.  
Paradox one, I pray you, for repeating it. But I



thought you ought to be informed of every attack,  
however absurd, incredible or wicked. You  
will have received letters from the Board advising  
your return unless you should have found a great probability  
of success in securing the cooperation of friends by a longer  
stay. But this last villainous effort of A. Organization seems to  
me to make it incumbent on you to remain, at least  
till you have obtained from America the means of ex-  
istence. The New Brandstreet Committee are I suppose only  
too ready to cooperate with Colver. If they knew what a  
contemptible vulgarian as well as wicked man he is, such  
anti-republicans as themselves would shrink from his con-  
tact. But I, who am a real republican, will never sug-  
gest to any of them as a reason against ~~any~~ man, that  
he is in low life, so called. I believe in no distinction of  
ranks. I aim to subvert such distinctions, & therefore I would  
not use an argument in which I have no confidence  
to move the mind of another. We have met here John  
Candler & wife, of the Society of Friends, who, after travelling  
in Jamaica to see the workings of Slavery there, took  
this island, on their way to America. I gave them  
letters to Mrs. Bassett, E. S. Loring, our own friends, Dr.  
Channing, & one or two others. I hope John Candler  
will be true to the cause there. But so many are the  
temptations that a man has, not to the happiness of  
John, that I should fear for any & every one indubitably



entrained to the temptations that a representative of  
any religious body undergoes in America: when slavery  
is the theme. We sit puzzling our brains here, as to what  
we can do for you, in your present situation, exposed to  
the "darts of the devil" as Paul of old, for the gospel's sake  
& for ours. I think of another person to whom  
I can write, — Anne Knight. The more the enemy  
try to spike our cannon, the stronger is the proof that  
these are the guns that tell upon their fortresses.  
We will proceed to build the Lord's temple of Freedom,  
with the axe in one hand & the sword in the other.  
Spiritually I mean, & always introduce a clause to say;  
for the same reason that prevented a well-meaning  
man of old from having the franchise — namely  
that ~~he~~ ~~was~~ a man of blood, surely has no  
applicability to ourselves, who are persecuted & maligned  
because we will not sully so noble a cause as ours  
with an appeal to violence. Let Phelps & Colver nominate  
men for the Presidency & count men's names to see whose  
party is the strongest (what is the government of a ma-  
jority in reality, but a contrivance to find out which side  
is in a worldly sense the strongest, — without reference  
to the fact that if any change for the better is to be  
made, it must be made by spiritual strength alone.)  
Let Eliza Wright talk about "The Sake of Revolution"  
should our petitions be disregarded — Let Joshua  
Leavitt talk of "Reprisals by the State of Vermont,



should a any of the citizens of the Southern State that  
retained one of her free coloured inhabitants, he found on  
her soil." All these things show how impatient they  
had become of their labour. - how before they took their  
hand from the plow to kill the sower, they looked  
back: Let us in patience possess our souls. I  
hear from Caroline that every thing in Boston  
will be done that can be done, to put means of  
defence into your hands. For once Henry is  
glad to be the "connections of all the "wealthy & respect-  
table" people of Boston (except "these hounds of Abolition")  
& "one of our most respectable merchants & worthiest  
citizens!" For once I am well pleased to be  
the niece of the head partner of the house of Paring  
brothers & Company. For once Edmund Quincy will  
have satisfaction in reflecting that the word of the  
son of Josiah Quincy - the President of Harvard Uni-  
versity may do the cause & its devoted advocate some good  
Wendell Phillips will recollect with an unwonted satis-  
faction, that his position in society will his word  
fall heavy upon the vile creatures that have stung  
to injure you in this cowardly manner. "His curse will  
be forgiveness" - but they of whom he speaks the  
truth as to their unworthiness of credence, will not  
be able to see that they are forgiven, & hence will be  
the infliction. (You remember how the Old Committee  
at N. York behaved under it.) & for once Garrison



May rejoice that God hath been so profuse  
to him in giving him a world honoured  
name, to which, in your perils undergone for his  
sake & the cause's sake, he can bind yours.

I can write no more at present  
through the shortness of the time. Yours faithfully  
I am ever

Maria Weston Chapman

John

Caroline